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Touraine. . . . Duquel de Taix estoit par une longue reuolution d'années descendu Iean de Taix nostre Bisayeul seigneur de toutes les terres susdictes de Fresnay, Assez, Beaumarchais &c. qu'il eut pour son partage, comme puisné ou cadet de ladicte maison." Of the place-names here mentioned, two are recorded⁹ as located in the commune of Cloyes, in the southern extremity of the department of Eure-et-Loir, namely Beaumarchais and Fresnay; ¹⁰ Beauregard occurs six times in this department, but not near Cloyes; Assez and les Turez I do not find. In the *Dictionnaire des Postes et des Télégraphes* for 1905, Beaumarchais near Cloyes is mentioned as having ten inhabitants; six other minute localities with the same name are located in different parts of France,—the largest, with 134 inhabitants, in Seine-et-Marne.

Thus Beaumarchais is not imaginary as a place-name. Whether or not the *terre* of that name *en la Paroisse de Cloye pres de Chasteaudun* suggested a *nom de guerre* to the dramatist, perhaps some investigator will be able to determine.

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CHAUCER AND LANCASTER

Since the printing of my contribution, "Chaucer and Richmond," in the April *Notes*, my attention has been drawn (somewhat tardily, alas!) to Professor Skeat's short but suggestive letter to the *Academy* of March 23, 1894, endorsing heartily a solution of the enigmatic lines of *The Book of the Duchess* offered by the Bishop of Oxford. "'Long castle' is Lancaster, 'whyte' refers to Blaunche, 'Seynt Iohan' is meant to introduce the name of John of Gaunt, and the 'riche hil' refers to the fact that he was Earl of Richmond." Only one more word-play seems possible—the pun upon "Gaunt"—and this, as we all know, was reserved for a greater than Chaucer. Skeat sustains the episcopal interpretation by reference to the variant, "long castel," for "Lancaster" in two passages of the *Bruce* of Chaucer's contemporary, Barbour (*Book* xvii, ll. 285, 852). Ashamed of my own dullness, I give entire assent to this apt reading by sharper wits; but I still dully and doggedly maintain that the punning description of the "long castle with walls white on a rich hill" is so accurately descriptive of Richmond as to imply strongly Chaucer's personal knowledge of the Yorkshire building.

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⁹ See L. Merlet, *Dictionnaire topographique du département d'Eure-et-Loir*, Paris, 1861, s. v.

¹⁰ Called Fresnay-lès-Cloyes in 1290, Fresnay-sur-le-Loir in 1409 (*ibid.*). This name, variously written, is exceedingly common, "désignant un lieu anciennement planté de frêne, du latin *fraxinus*" (Joanne, *op. cit.*, III, 1573).